(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any plan to provide water in the regions which have constantly face drought and have scarcity of even the drinking water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Reivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proplosals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs.) Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed. Further, Central Goverment entrusted the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of one of the link *viz* Ken-Betwa link under Peninsular Component to NWDA.

Implementation of any of the links under NPP is not envisaged during XI Plan. However, a provision of Rs. 220 crore has been proposed in XI plan for the works of balance FRs of links under NPP, Preparation of Pre Feabilility Reports (PFRs)/FRs of intrastate links as proposed by them, prepration of DPR of Ken-Betwa link & other priority links after the concurrence of concerned States etc., to be carried out by NWDA.

Progress in inter-linking of rivers

2005. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task of inter-linking of rivers in the country is going on as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments are not showing any interest to inter-link rivers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which all the rivers in the country are likely to be inter-linked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a), (b) and (e) Based on various studies conducted. NWDA has identified 30 links preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs.) Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component & 2 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed. NWDA has taken up the work of Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link *viz.* Ken-Betwa under Peninsular Component. The

implementation of inter basin water transfer proposals depends upon the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreements with neighbouring countries.

(c) and (d) Most of the States are supportive of the concept of the interlinking of rivers project; provided the projet can some how ensure a "win - win" situation for all States. However, the State of Kerala, has passed a resolution in the Kerala Assembly to drop the proposal of Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link. The Central Government has taken note of it and has decided not to treat it as a priority link for consensus building purpose at present.

Conservation of ground water

†2006. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme for participation of farmers in conservation of ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of States in which this scheme has been implemented alongwith the results achieved; and

(d) by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented in the whole country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) With a view to create awareness in respect of conservation and efficient use of water, Ministry of Water Resources has sanctioned Farmers' Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARPs) aimed at dissemination of technologies to increase yield and income per drop of water at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.4685 crores through 5000 demonstrations across 26 States/UTs.

In addition to this, the scheme of artificial recharge to ground water through dugwells has been approved for implementation in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Declaration of rivers as national property

†2007. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering upon to declare rivers as national property;

(b) whether Government is approving the proposal of privatization of rivers;

(c) if so, the objective thereof; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Water Resources to "declare rivers as national property".

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.